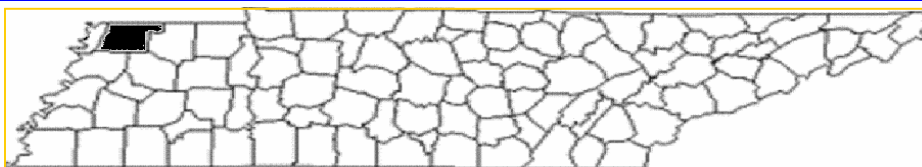


# The Status of Women in Obion County



## STATUS OF WOMEN IN OBION COUNTY: AN OVERVIEW

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INDICATOR	DATA	COUNTY RANKING
		(of 95 Counties)
COMPOSITE EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS INDEX	68.40	85
Women's Annual Earnings	\$20,032	72
Women's Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Earnings (Wage Gap)	60.8%	94
Women's Labor Force Participation Rate	41.9%	47
Female Unemployment Rate	6.9%	68
Women in Managerial or Professional Occupations	25.8%	61
COMPOSITE ECONOMIC AUTONOMY INDEX	55.13	65
Businesses that are Women-Owned (% of total)	17.4%	70
Women with a Four-Year College Degree (%)	13.0%	22
Women With a High School Diploma (%)	71.6%	33
Female High School Dropout Rate	6.2%	40
Women with any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage (%)	89.1%	75
Women Earning Incomes Below the Poverty Level (%)	15.4%	44
Single Female-Headed Households Living In Poverty (%)	11.0%	74
Adolescent Pregnancy Rate (Ages 10-19)	42.7	83

**Report Overview:** This publication on the Status of Women in Obion County is part of a statewide publication of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, *The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties, 2004*. The Economic Council on Women is a State agency created under TCA § 4-50-100, et seq. by the One Hundredth General Assembly in 1998 to address the economic needs of Tennessee women.

## The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

### OBION

Women have taken remarkable strides towards economic equality, from education to earnings to political participation. Women are now pursuing goals such as business ownership, leadership roles in their careers, and election to state and federal political office. However, obstacles still exist in the climb toward equality. Nationwide, equal numbers of men and women are obtaining four-year college degrees; however, these gains have not translated into pay equity. The average college-educated woman working full time earns \$44,200 a year compared to \$61,800 for men in the same category. Women are still under-represented in many of the highest paying, fastest growing sectors of the economy. Helping women break into these traditionally male-dominated areas like computer science, engineering, mathematics and technology, as well as all skilled-labor positions, gives women tools for self-sufficiency and understanding of their personal capabilities, and these advances are good for the economy of our counties and of our state.

#### Employment and Earnings

The employment and earnings index includes data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percent of women in managerial or professional occupations.

- ◇ Obion County ranks in the bottom 50 counties in all five employment and earnings indicators for women in the state.
- ◇ Women in Obion County have median earnings of \$20,032 annually while their male counterparts in the county have median annual earnings of \$32,963.
- ◇ For the wage equity indicator, Obion ranks 94th out of the 95 counties with women making just 60.8% of their male counterparts earnings.
- ◇ 41.9% of women in Obion County participate in the labor force but women still make up 44.8% of the county's labor force. The female unemployment rate of 6.9% is high compared to the overall county unemployment rate of 5.3%.

#### Economic Autonomy

The economic autonomy index includes information on educational attainment, business ownership and general quality of life issues.

- ◇ 71.6% of women in the county have a high school diploma while 71.0% of all county residents have a high-school level degree. About the same percentages of men and women have high school diplomas.
- ◇ Obion earns its only ranking among the top 25 counties for percentage of women with a four-year college degree (13.0%). Only 10.3% of all county residents have a bachelor's degree.
- ◇ The female high school dropout rate in Obion County is 6.2 %, which is actually lower than the overall Tennessee rate for women.
- ◇ Though 10.1% of all families are in poverty in the county, 36.3% of families with a female householder and no husband present live in poverty.
- ◇ In Obion County 17.4% of privately-held businesses are women-owned, but female-owned businesses account for just 1.4% of all income and receipts from private firms in the county.
- ◇ Women represent 52.7% of eligible voters in the county. 5 out of the 29 elected county officials are women.

# The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

## OBION

		Obion County	Rank of Obion County	Highest Ranking County
<b>Earnings</b>	Median Annual Earnings for FT Females	\$20,032	72	Williamson: \$32,243
	Wage Gap	60.8%	94	Davidson: 82.1%
<b>Employment</b>	Female Labor Force Participa- tion Rate	41.9%	47	Rutherford: 50.9%
	Female Unemployment Rate	6.9%	68	Pickett: 1.5%
	Percent of Employed Females in Management, Prof., and Related Occupations	25.8%	61	Anderson: 44.6%
	Women Owned Business % of Total	17.4%	70	Moore: 63.3%
<b>Education</b>	% of Females with 4 Year Degree or Better	13.0%	22	Williamson: 39.5%
	% of Females with High School Diploma (or equiva- lency)	71.6%	33	Williamson: 90.6%
	Female Dropout Rate	6.2%	40	Clay/Pickett: 0.0%
<b>Lifestyles</b>	% of Women with any kind of Health Insurance Coverage	89.1%	75	Montgomery/ Williamson: 100%
	% of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	15.4%	44	Williamson: 5.4%
	% of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	11.0%	74	Williamson: 2.5%
	Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	42.7	83	Williamson: 1.2%

# ABOUT THE COUNCIL AND THIS REPORT

Obion County

*The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties* report offers an economic profile of women in each county of Tennessee and examines how women's rights and equality vary among the counties. The report presents data and overall rankings in two categories of women's economic status: employment and earnings and economic autonomy. Indicators of women's status in each category make up the composite rankings of the counties.

The employment and earnings section presents data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percentage of women in managerial occupations.

The economic autonomy section includes information on the percentage of businesses owned by women, educational attainment levels, percentage of households headed by a single female, single female headed households living in poverty, percentage of women with health insurance, the high school dropout rate and the teen pregnancy rate.

The **Tennessee Economic Council on Women** was created in 1998 by the Tennessee General Assembly to assess Tennessee women's economic status. The Council develops and advocates solutions to address women's needs in order to help women achieve economic autonomy. In setting its priorities, the Council selects issues that are timely and likely to result in positive changes for women.

Co-Authors: Jennifer Rawls, Executive Director, Julia Reynolds, Research Analyst, and Lee Eubanks, Intern

Visit the Tennessee Economic Council on Women at [www.tennesseewomen.org](http://www.tennesseewomen.org)

SOURCES	
Earnings and Employment	
Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Wage Gap (Female Earnings as a Percentage of Earnings)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Labor Force Participation Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Unemployment Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Employed Females in Management, Professional, and Related Occupations	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Economic Autonomy	
Women-owned Business, Percent of total	Economic Census, 1997
Percent of Females w/4yr Degree or Better	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Females with a High School Diploma (or equivalency)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Dropout Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Women with Any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Percent of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Voter Demographics and Elected County Officials	National Association of Counties